



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P.O. BOX 4970
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32232-0019

JUL 1 1999

Regulatory Division
Jurisdictional Delineations

PUBLIC NOTICE

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: The Jacksonville District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), is circulating this notice to advise the public of recent changes in District procedures. These changes when fully implemented, are designed to increase the efficiency of District staff, and to better serve the public.

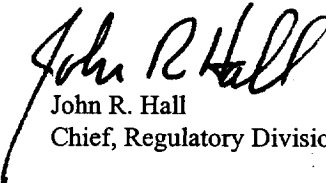
BACKGROUND:

Pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (Section 404), a Department of the Army permit is required for the discharge of dredged or fill material into "waters of the United States", including wetlands. Wetlands are defined in the Corps of Engineer's (Corps) regulations [33 CFR, 328.3(b)] as "areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or ground water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions." For the purposes of Section 404, the identification and delineation of wetlands is accomplished in accordance with the 1987 Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual (87 Manual). To ensure that the jurisdictional delineations are performed in accordance with the 87 Manual, the Corps, upon request, has reviewed (verified) the applicant prepared delineations. Under the current process, the Corps responds to all requests equally on a "first come-first served" basis. For various reasons, the Corps finds it necessary to modify this process.

In accordance with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Headquarters (HQUSACE), effective immediately, the following will apply:

The priorities for performing verifications will be similar to those set out in the Standard Operating Procedures effected by HQUSACE on May 8, 1999. The first priority will be to verify applicant prepared delineations on all "mom and pop" applications or, if no applicant prepared delineation exists, to perform field wetland delineations for "mom and pop", but only in conjunction with permit applications from "mom and pop". In the Jacksonville District, we will define "mom and pop" as any individual, non-commercial activity on lots ≤ 5 acres. The second priority will be given to verifying applicant prepared wetland delineations in conjunction with permit applications. The lowest priority will be for verification of all other externally prepared delineations (not in conjunction with permit applications) as resources and time allow. "Mom and pop" will fall into this category too if they do not submit an application.

This policy is subject to modification as national priorities and/or legislative mandates change. If you need clarification on this policy or on any other aspect of jurisdictional issues, you may contact Stuart L. Santos at the letterhead address or by telephone at (904) 232-2018.


John R. Hall
Chief, Regulatory Division